

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 27 September 1990

The week in statistics ...

- ☐ Mining and services growth fails to stop economy's decline 2
- ☐ Export prices fall again 3
- ☐ Personal finance remains steady 3
- ☐ Road deaths — record low levels maintained 4
- ☐ This week in brief ... 4
- ☐ Steady growth in earnings 5
- ☐ *Statistics Weekly* turns 50 5
- ☐ All the week's releases 6
- ☐ Calendar of key releases up to 9 October 7
- ☐ The latest ... 7
 - key State indicators 7
 - key national indicators 8

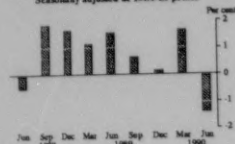
Mining and services growth fails to stop economy's decline

Despite continued strong growth in the mining industry, there was a 1.4 per cent fall in gross domestic product (GDP) in June quarter 1990, based on seasonally adjusted constant price 'industry-revalued' estimates.

The expenditure and income based estimates of GDP (reported in the June quarter issue of *Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure* (5206.0) released on 21 August 1990) also declined. As a result, the average measure of GDP, which is probably the best indicator of short-term movements, fell by 1.2 per cent.

The 3.5 per cent growth in mining industry output in the June quarter, which was largely due to an increase in black coal production, follows strong growth throughout much of 1989-90. However, in the June quarter the growth in mining, combined with the modest growth of most of the industries in the services sector, was insufficient to offset sharp falls in the remainder of the goods-producing sector and the wholesale industry. The major falls occurred in construction (down 7.3%), manufacturing (down 5.5%) and wholesale (down 4.0%).

QUARTERLY CHANGE IN GROSS PRODUCT
Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices



GROSS PRODUCT, JUNE QUARTER 1990
Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices

	Gross product (\$ million)	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	2,484	-2.2	6.9
Mining	5,240	3.5	18.8
Manufacturing	10,991	-5.5	-4.2
Electricity, gas and water	2,381	—	3.7
Construction	4,249	-7.3	-9.3
Wholesale trade	5,096	-4.0	-7.9
Retail trade	5,096	0.6	4.0
Transport and storage	3,074	-2.2	-3.3
Communication	1,828	3.8	11.7
Finance, property and business services	7,760	—	5.5
Public administration and defence	2,338	1.0	-0.5
Community services	7,869	1.9	5.4
Recreation, personal and other services	2,590	0.3	3.7
Other (ownership of dwellings, import duties, etc.)	4,292	-1.7	-1.1
Gross domestic product	65,288	-1.4	1.2

Export prices fall again

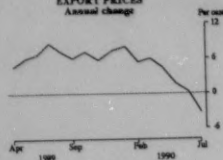
Export prices fell by 2.6 per cent in July 1990, the third successive month in which prices have fallen.

Over the year to July 1990 export prices decreased by 3.3 per cent, the largest annual decrease recorded since June 1986.

The major factor behind the July fall in the index was the significantly lower prices for wool following the reduction in the floor price. Falls in wheat prices, reflecting lower world prices, also had a significant impact.

About 30 per cent of the commodities included in the index recorded price increases with the main increase being for sugar.

EXPORT PRICES
Annual change



EXPORT PRICES, JULY 1990
Percentage change

Commodity	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Food and live animals	-0.4	-5.5
Crude materials	-5.2	-3.0
Mineral fuels	-1.1	3.4
Animal and vegetable oils	2.1	-8.6
Chemicals and other manufactures	-0.7	-3.2
All groups	-2.6	-3.3

For further information, order the publication *Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0)*, or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

Personal finance remains steady

Commitments for personal finance totalled \$1,947.5 million in July 1990, only 0.5 per cent more than the June 1990 total but still 11.9 per cent more than in July 1989.

Fixed loan commitments, the major component of personal finance at \$1,186.3 million in July 1990, were up 1.6 per cent on June. Commitments under revolving credit facilities (i.e. credit cards, personal overdrafts and personal lines of credit) were \$761.2 million, down 1.3 per cent.

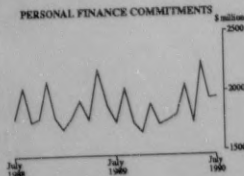
Commitments for cars and station wagons, at \$493.0 million, comprised over 40 per cent of the total borrowings under fixed loan facilities. Of that amount, \$162.2 million was committed for 10,455 new cars and station wagons and \$330.8 million for 40,636 used cars and station wagons.

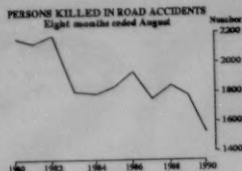
NEW PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, JULY 1990
\$ million

Type of commitment	Banks	Finance companies	Credit cooperatives	Other lenders	All lenders
Fixed loan	631.7	333.6	177.6	43.4	1,186.3
Revolving credit	651.2	97.6	8.9	3.6	761.2
Total commitments	1,282.9	431.2	186.4	47.0	1,947.5

For further information, order the publication *Personal Finance, Australia (5642.0)*, or contact Derek Pike on (06) 252 7129.

PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS





Road deaths — record low levels maintained

The number of road accident deaths in Australia continues at a record low level. The 183 deaths recorded in August was the lowest total for that month since the series began in 1970. This total represents a decrease of 14 per cent from August 1989 (212) and of 11 per cent from the total for July 1990 (205).

In the year to date, 249 fewer persons have been killed on Australian roads than for the same period last year (see following table). This is the lowest number of deaths for any eight month period since the series began.

PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS
Eight months ended August 1990

	Number of fatalities	Percentage change from corresponding eight months in 1989
New South Wales	524	-9
Victoria	378	-29
Queensland	250	-1
South Australia	142	4
Western Australia	127	-16
Tasmania	42	-34
Northern Territory	50	28
Australian Capital Territory	16	-24
Australia	1,529	-14

Of the 183 persons killed in road accidents in August 1990, 40 per cent were motor vehicle drivers, 28 per cent motor vehicle passengers, 19 per cent pedestrians and 9 per cent motor cycle drivers. The remaining 4 per cent of fatalities were pedal cyclists or passengers on motor cycles.

Fatality rates in August 1990 were highest amongst males in the 17-20 age range. Overall, the rate for males was almost three times that for females.

For further information, order the publication *Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Australia (9401.0)*, or contact Andy Harris on (06) 252 5443.

This week in brief ...

Extracts from this week's releases.

☐ Exports

Exports for July 1990 were \$4,003 million, a decrease of \$59 million compared with June 1990.

Source: *Exports, Australia, Monthly Summary Tables, July 1990 (5432.0)*.

☐ House prices

The established house price index for Australia increased 0.9% between March and June quarters 1990. This represents a continuation of the relatively low rates of increase recorded since September quarter 1989.

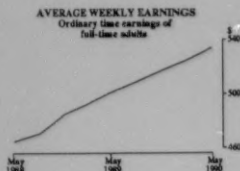
Source: *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, June Quarter 1990 (6416.0)*.

Steady growth in earnings

Average weekly ordinary time earnings rose by 1.8 per cent in the three months to May 1990, bringing the rise since May last year to 6.6 per cent.

Final estimates for May show average weekly ordinary time earnings for full-time adults of \$534.10, up from \$524.70 in February 1990.

The increase for males was 1.9 per cent (to \$566.60) while for females it was 1.7 per cent (to \$470.20).



AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, MAY 1990
Full-time adult persons ordinary time earnings

State	Weekly earnings \$	Percentage change from	
		February 1990	May 1989
New South Wales	547.50	1.2	7.3
Victoria	536.20	1.8	7.1
Queensland	503.50	3.0	5.6
South Australia	513.00	2.2	6.9
Western Australia	530.70	2.0	4.6
Tasmania	520.20	1.1	6.3
Northern Territory	547.30	2.6	6.6
Australian Capital Territory	597.30	1.0	6.3
Australia	534.10	1.8	6.6

Average weekly total earnings (includes overtime) for full-time adults increased by 1.9 per cent to \$569.30, an annual increase of 6.1 per cent compared with May 1989.

The rise in earnings is due to a continuing flow-through of increases handed down in the National Wage Case decision of August 1989. This decision allowed for an increase of \$15.00 (or 3%, whichever is greater) for skilled workers, \$12.50 for semi-skilled workers and \$10.00 for unskilled workers with a second increase of the same amount no sooner than 6 months after that. Supplementary information obtained during the survey (which should be regarded as indicative only) suggests that nearly all employees have received the first instalment and that approximately a third have received the second instalment.

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (6302.0), or contact Mark Patton on (06) 252 5946.

Statistics Weekly turns 50

The editorial staff of *Statistics Weekly* are celebrating the 50th edition (first birthday) of this publication.

We wish to thank those people who provided constructive comments. Some of these have already been incorporated and others will be seen in future editions. Remember that your comments are always welcome.

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to Peter Damccoski on (06) 252 6101.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

☎ PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
☎ (06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

☎ NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6101

All the week's releases: 19 to 25 September

General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., September 1990 (1304.0; \$17.50)
Statistics Weekly, 20 September 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Economic Indicators, WA, September 1990 (1307.5; \$5.00)
Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, September 1990 (1303.6; \$8.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, June Qtr 1990 (5222.0; \$8.00)
Exports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables, July 1990 (5432.0; \$8.00)
Personal Finance, Aust., July 1990 (5642.0; \$5.00)
Lease Finance, Aust., July 1990 (5644.0; \$5.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., August 1990 (6203.0; \$13.00)
Average Weekly Earnings, States and Aust., May 1990 (6302.0; \$8.50)
Export Price Index, Aust., July 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., August 1990 (6410.0; \$3.50)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., July 1990 (6415.0; \$5.00)
House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, June Qtr 1990 (6416.0; \$25.00)
The Labour Force, Vic., May 1990 (6202.2; \$12.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

Production of Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, Aust., June 1990 (8357.0; \$5.50)
Production of Transport Equipment, Aust., July 1990 (8363.0; \$3.50)
Production of Energy Products, Aust., July 1990 (8368.0; \$3.50)
Interstate and Foreign Trade, WA, 1988-89 (8502.5; \$12.50) — *final issue*
Building Approvals — Private Sector, Perth Statistical Division, August 1990 (8732.5; \$3.00)

Transport

Interstate Road Freight Movement, Aust., June Qtr 1990 (9214.0; \$5.00)
Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Aust., August 1990 (9401.0; \$4.00)
Transport, Qld, 1988-89 (9101.3; \$8.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 9 October 1990

September

- 26** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, July 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Production Statistics, Australia, August 1990, Preliminary, (8301.0; \$5.00)
- 27** Balance of Payments, Australia, August 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)
Import Price Index, Australia, June Quarter 1990 (6414.0; \$5.00)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, August 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)
- 28** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, July 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, July 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)

October

- 2** Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, August 1990 (6354.0; \$10.00)
Building Approvals, Australia, August 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)
- 3** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, July 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

25 September 1990



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (March qtr 90)*	10.1	-13.5	5.6	17.7	-5.3	-35.2	n.a.	n.a.	-2.4
Retail turnover (July 90) (trend estimate)	6.1	0.7	5.2	5.6	6.5	7.6	n.a.	10.4	4.5
New motor vehicle registrations (July 90)†	11.8	-9.2	20.8	32.3	-13.0	3.6	40.7	19.3	5.4
Number of dwelling unit approvals (July 90)	-3.8	-24.6	7.5	-9.2	-1.9	1.5	-28.9	7.4	-9.6
Value of total building work done (March qtr 90)	6.7	7.9	1.1	12.9	5.1	-4.0	30.9	-4.0	5.9
Employed persons (August 90)*	0.8	1.1	3.2	0.4	1.1	1.1	-2.7	1.3	1.2
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 90)	8.1	7.8	6.6	6.7	8.6	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 90)	7.3	7.1	5.6	6.9	4.6	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.6
Population (March 90)	0.8	1.3	2.8	1.0	2.6	1.0	-0.1	2.0	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (March qtr 90)	3.7	1.1	3.8	6.9	-1.3	2.3	-1.2	-7.0	2.6

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators - consolidated to 25 September 1990

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m June qtr 90	91,183	93,879	0.4	5.6
	— 1984-85 prices		62,511	64,562	-0.9	1.0
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m June qtr 90	6,990	6,657	-5.3	-9.3
	— 1984-85 prices		5,288	5,030	-4.6	-12.7
Expected new capital expenditure	— current prices	" Six months to Dec. 90	14,807	n.a.	n.a.	-1.6
	— 1984-85 prices		6,687	7,004	-1.2	3.2
Retail turnover	— current prices	July 90	14,300	14,796	-0.3	1.4
	— 1984-85 prices	June qtr 90	55,954	54,999	11.8	5.4
New motor vehicle registrations (e)		July 90	10,859	10,452	-5.0	-3.7
Dwelling unit approvals		July 90	1,660	1,723	-14.5	-22.3
Value of all building approvals						
Value of total building work done	— current prices	Mar. qtr 90	6,922	7,562	-2.0	5.8
	— 1984-85 prices		4,429	4,839	-3.0	-2.3
Manufacturers' sales		June qtr 90	35,329	35,201	-3.0	2.3
Expected manufacturers' sales		Six months to Dec. 90	75,399	n.a.	n.a.	4.6
Labour						
Employment persons	'000	August 90	7,825.0	7,893.1	-0.6	1.2
Unemployment rate †	%	"	63.3	7.0	0.4	1.3
Participation rate †		"	60.9	64.0	-0.2	0.6
Job vacancies	'000	Feb. 90	60.9	56.1	-15.0	-15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.4	1.4	-8.7	-3.5
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	June qtr 90	207.4	n.a.	1.6	7.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	June 90	116.6	n.a.	-1.9	-2.8
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	June 90	108.3	n.a.	-0.5	4.4
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 90	3,356	3,634	-10.9	-25.3
Average weekly earnings (full-time adults, ordinary time)	\$	May 90	534.10	n.a.	1.8	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	August 90	13.75	n.a.	-1.0	-4.2
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	13.50	n.a.	-0.4	-0.6
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise (e)	\$m	July 90	4,124	4,343	14.4	10.0
Imports of merchandise (e)	"	"	4,424	4,180	-9.8	2.7
Balance on merchandise trade (c) (e)	"	"	-300	163	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c) (e)	"	"	-735	-175	39.4	74.6
Balance on current account (c) (e)	"	"	-1,730	-1,232	21.0	28.5
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 90	n.a.	104.9	1.7	-4.3
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 June 90	124,528	n.a.	-0.3	13.3
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	161,820	n.a.	0.2	11.4
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
\$US (e)	per SA	July 90	0.7926	n.a.	-1.9	4.5
Trade weighted index (e)	May 1970 = 100.0	"	61.1	n.a.	0.0	4.3
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 90	17.0	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitors	'000	June 90	157	201	5.6	11.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Thursday, 27 September 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available. Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

